

WEEK IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE

Week in the Senate.

THREE unusual resolutions spiced routine in the Senate last week and made the long debates on the emergency tariff and naval appropriations bill less prosaic for the steady attendance.

First, Senator La Follette, of Wisconsin, offered a resolution withholding participation by the United States in international councils that "deny freedom and self-determination to nations such as Ireland."

Second, Senator Harrison, of Mississippi, proposed, by a resolution he offered, to change the Senate rules so as to do away with secret sessions for the consideration of foreign treaties and nominations.

Third, Senator King, of Utah, by resolution, demanded an investigation of lobbyism of the alleged dye trust.

None of these measures has been acted upon despite an appeal by Senator Harrison for the consideration of his before the nominations being sent in daily by President Harding are all "secretly" disposed of. The naval appropriation bill stood in the way of his resolution, while the other two are still lying upon the table.

The first half of the week was consumed in the tariff debate, against which Democrats made a stubborn but futile fight, as was expected. The vote came about 4 o'clock Wednesday and stood 63 to 26. The naval bill debate was made spectacular by the fight of Senator Borah for his amendment looking to a reduction or cessation of battleship construction. Senator King, of Utah, spoke for four hours Thursday against the program for which appropriations are provided in the measure. He declared the costs would reach \$3,000,000,000 within three years and that the guns and battleships being provided would be obsolete by the time the program is completed.

AMONG scores of minor bills introduced or passed were several looking to further improvement in the machinery of government. A District of Columbia bill passed Thursday authorizes the Commissioners to dispose of a parcel of land bought for school purposes many years ago at Twentieth and H streets northwest. Another was introduced proposing changes in the laws providing for the assessment of personal property taxes and adding phrenologists to the list of palmists, clairvoyants, soothsayers, mediums and fortune-tellers required to take out a \$25 annual license. Another would limit the height of buildings on Sixteenth street and Massachusetts avenue to 70 feet. The Senate District subcommittee held further hearings Friday on the \$2,000,000 urgency school building program, obtaining data from builders on the costs of materials and labor.

The Senate and House Joint Committee on Education and Labor devoted a large part of the week to hearings on the Kenyon bill for the establishment of a Department of Public Welfare. Dr. Charles E. Sawyer, the President's physician and personal representative appointed to co-operate with government departments in welfare work, was among many persons heard. Advocates of an independent department of education protested strongly against including the government's educational work in the proposed new Welfare Department, saying it was too big a proposition to be submerged as a mere bureau. Officials of the National Education Association testified that sentiment had been sounded and the demand of the public was in favor of an independent department of education.

The Senate Civil Service Committee was preparing joint hearings with the House Civil Service Committee on the Smoot and Sterling bills providing for a reclassification of government employees, and members of the former Joint Commission on Reclassification were to be consulted. The Senate Appropriations Committee has been giving some attention to the rival measures, and reports on both bills from bottom sources are looked for late this week.

THE Finance Committee conducted hearings on the nomination of Edward Blair, of West Virginia, to be Internal Revenue Commissioner, against whom Senator Johnson, of California, made charges of unfaithfulness in the Republican National convention. The Postoffice and Postroads Committee held hearings on good roads questions, and various other committees were busy most of the week.

The Senate confirmed several scores of nominations sent up by President Harding, among them being those of H. L. Bain, of California, to be Director of Mines; E. Mont Reilly, of Missouri, to be governor of Porto Rico; a collector of customs at Baltimore; collectors of customs and revenue and United States attorneys and postmasters at many other cities throughout the country.

Senator Spencer, of Missouri, regaled the body on Monday by reading into the Record for the benefit of posterity his parting chapter in the controversy of a year or so ago with President Wilson, in which the former President denied the Missouri Senator's charges that he promised Rumania and Serbia to send American forces to their relief in case of future war.

The Outlook in Congress.

SENATE.

Smoot-Sterling bill providing for reclassification of government employees before Civil Service and Appropriations Committees with prospects of early reports.

Maternity and infancy bill, providing Federal assistance to States in establishing facilities for treatment and education in care of mothers and babies, to be reported by Committee on Education and Labor.

Departmental deficiency bills, totaling more than \$300,000,000, to occupy attention of Appropriations Committee probably two weeks.

Army appropriations bill to be reported late with probable amendments including \$200,000 item for beginning work on conduits to enlarge District water supply.

Emergency tariff bill expected to be reported by conferees before end of week and immediately signed by President so that farmers of country may get benefit of protection afforded by increased duties on surplus products.

Conference report on immigration bill, barring aliens for one year up to 3 per cent of native population in United States at 1920 census period, to be followed immediately by signing of measure at White House.

Naval Appropriation bill to be taken up by conference committees immediately upon passage.

HOUSE.

Minor bills on the unanimous consent calendar under suspension of the rules to be taken up tomorrow.

Deficiency appropriation bill expected to be reported tomorrow and be before the House on Tuesday and probably remainder of the week.

Conference report on the bill restricting immigration will have right of way after Monday, but is expected to be disposed of in short time.

Conferees on the emergency tariff bill expected to put in a busy week compromising differences between Senate and House, but word has gone out that measure is doomed to a premediated deadlock.

The deficiency bill, slated for report, is expected to contain some surprises including a huge appropriation for the Shipping Board, which was refused twice in last Congress.

Start Aid for Veterans.

FIRST fruits of Congressional action to provide better and more ample facilities for the care of disabled veterans of the great war were announced last week. By authority of Congress the Treasury Department was directed to transfer to the War Department \$750,000 for the enlargement of the Fitzsimons' General Hospital, Denver, Colorado, to enable it to take care of tubercular cases among veterans of the late war.

These funds were turned over to the War Department on April 20 last, and an immediate start was made by the Construction Service of the Quartermaster Corps, in the preparation of plans and specifications for enlarging this hospital by approximately 600 beds.

This work includes the remodeling and completion of six large ward buildings of about 100 beds each, the construction of a new storehouse, some additions to existing storehouses, the erection of quarters for eight officers and six noncommissioned officers, an administration building, additions to the laundry, refrigerating plant, and bakery. It also involves the extension of water, sewer, and electric lighting systems and roads, and the enlargement of the heating plant.

Senator Spencer produced State Department records through Secretary Hughes in substantiation of his claim that the promise was made at the Eighth plenary conference when President Wilson addressed the peace envoys. He declared, also, that the stenographic records bore him out.

Senator Truman H. Newberry, of Michigan, attended the session Monday after an absence of more than a year, his conviction on charges of violating the corrupt practices act having been reversed by the Supreme Court. The Senator was warmly welcomed by his conferees among those who served on the committee which conducted a recount of the ballots in the Michigan Senatorial election which Henry Ford, Newberry's defeated rival, claimed was stolen.

Signorita Guadalupe Cabrera, daughter of the former President of Guatemala, who was deposed and now is held as a federal prisoner, committed suicide Monday, according to dispatches from Guatemala City, as a means of calling the attention of the world to her father's condition.

Little Progress in House.

MARKING time seemed to be the principal activity of the House during the past week.

With the deficiency appropriation bill not ready to report and no other business in sight except the Knox peace resolution—and that is being held up by orders from the other end of the avenue—ample time was given members with something to say, to say it.

Monday and Tuesday were consumed in consideration of the army appropriation bill after having already devoted an entire day to the measure more than a week before. No effort was made to hurry it through.

Wednesday the Capper-Tincher bill to restrict gambling and speculation in trade exchanges was taken up and remained before the House until late Friday. With virtually no opposition to the measure, the members from the agricultural districts were given the chance of a lifetime to tell their constituents through the pages of the Congressional Record of the evils of gambling in grain futures.

Permission was granted on Thursday to adjourn from Friday evening until Monday noon when the unanimous consent calendar comes up under suspension of the rules.

THE assertion early in the week that the administration had asked House leaders to delay action on the Knox peace resolution, passed by the Senate Saturday a week ago, was borne out by the failure to bring up the measure during the week.

Only two other measures—the army appropriation bill and the bill to restrict gambling on trade exchanges—were considered, and no others were ready for action. The two measures taken up were allowed to drag out over five days' time and then the House recessed over Saturday.

The program, however, met with no protest from House members, a great many of whom are said to have little sympathy for the measure, the Republicans regarding it as merely a club to be placed in the hands of the Chief Executive, and the Democrats being unalterably opposed to it in any form.

SMALL army men won a complete victory in the House when they succeeded in reducing the appropriation for the army to 100,000. The Democratic minority succeeded in annexing a sufficient number of Republican insurgents to secure a majority of 34 on the test vote.

In addition to appropriating only enough money to support an army of 150,000, an amendment was adopted directing the Secretary of War to grant applications of enlisted men for discharge, regardless of whether they had served their full enlistments, until the size of the army was cut to that figure.

The Senate is expected to increase the appropriation as was done during the last session when the measure met the pocket veto of President Wilson. The compromise between the House and Senate at that time resulted in an appropriation for 156,000 men, after the Senate had gone on record for 175,000.

THE Bergdoll hearings continued to occupy the center of the stage in the work of House committees. While making good copy for Philadelphia and other newspapers, many members, including all the Democrats and not a few Republicans, are becoming restive over the continued performance.

They are beginning to look askance at the cost of the investigation, some predicting it will run up to \$100,000, when the administration is pledged to rigid economy.

The investigation during the week disclosed that Gen. March, Chief of Staff of the Army, approved of the effort to kidnap Bergdoll in Germany and that he would never have apologized for it.

It was also developed that in the event of a separate treaty with Germany government officials will insist, as one of the treaty stipulations that the "millionaire slacker" be disgorged.

Representative Johnson of Kentucky, Democratic member of the committee, charged during the inquiry that the court-martial trial of army officers said to be responsible for Bergdoll's escape was whitewashed.

Supreme Court.

BEFORE the summer recess of the United States Supreme Court, which probably will date from the first Monday of next month until the first Monday in October, a large number of cases of varying importance will be decided. The tribunal will meet Monday next to take motions and hand down decisions in cases that have been pending and recess then until May 31. With three decision dates probable before the summer recess, the calendar probably will be cleaned up. Most of the cases are of minor interest and concern taxation matters. No meeting of the court was held last Monday, recess having been taken for two weeks from the previous Monday, when the celebrated Newberry election case of Michigan was decided by a reversal of the court in which Senator Newberry and sixteen co-defendants were convicted of violation of the corrupt practices act.